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ments "into the proffer'd system as that a Web may be produced fit for freemen to wear". After all it is no disgrace to have been a sincere weak-government man in those days, and why should the hero-worshippers of to-day strive as if to remove a stain from their hero?

C. H. VAN TYNE.

The British Empire and the United States: a Review of their Relations during the Century of Peace following the Treaty of Ghent.

By WILLIAM ARCHIBALD DUNNING, Lieber Professor of History and Political Philosophy, Columbia University. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1914. Pp. xl, 381.)

THIS book, occasioned by the anniversary of the treaty of Ghent, and accompanied by prefaces from the pens of James Bryce and Nicholas Murray Butler, is more interesting in its accidents than in its intent. Its summary of the diplomatic relations between Great Britain and the United States traverses ground already well known, and not illumined here by any special contributions. It is sound, readable, and reliable, but it is not in any sense new. Interwoven with the diplomatic topics, however, are paragraphs and sections stating the national backgrounds of both countries, and here we have the ripe *dicta* of a distinguished scholar. Whether we always agree with the *dicta*, or not, they are always interesting, and they lose nothing from being stated in terse epigram and pointed with acute intelligence.

The "hundred years of peace", as Professor Dunning summarizes them, divide into four periods, each having its own key. Between 1815 and 1835 it is British foreign policy; from 1836 to 1860 it is American growth; the next twenty-five years are determined by the Civil War; and since 1886 mutual expansion is the chief factor. Around these basic ideas the book is constructed. But, as the author says, "The discussion of international relations is almost invariably tainted with the fallacy of too sweeping generalization" (p. 357), and if Professor Dunning had held too closely to his scheme he would have failed to portray the fact. Diplomatic history is essentially episodal in its character, at best. When it is limited to two single participants over a long period, it becomes as a string of beads, with no necessary connection between the units except as a constant policy may provide it; and of constant policy the American State Department can make but a thin exhibit. The greatest weakness of the book is its attempt, dictated by its title, to reduce to a common denominator incommensurable facts. The episodes of a hundred years are after all chiefly episodes.

The connection between American democracy and British liberalism is frequently suggested throughout the book. The fact that the English Whigs have continued to regard themselves as closely allied with the more liberal factions in the United States is in part responsible for the success of Jackson in his British relations. Yet the connection must

not be driven too far, for the American democracy produced not only the Monroe Doctrine—"the pronunciamiento of a great democracy just arrived at aggressive self-consciousness" (p. 54)—but also a tendency to bait the British lion with Canada and Fenianism and Irish Home Rule. And the British Liberals produced Palmerston and a type of jingo diplomacy that brought war dangerously near in the cases of McLeod and the Maine boundary, the *Trent*, and the *Alabama*. We may rejoice with the author that Polk and Palmerston did not synchronize. It is true that among the people British Liberals and Americans have fraternized sympathetically and without obstruction, but in neither country have these classes found a sure means of impressing their hopes upon politicians, even of their own faith, when in executive office.

In the *dicta* of Professor Dunning's book the historian will have the greatest interest. It may perhaps be doubted whether steam navigation had by 1830 made enough advance to give great stimulus to American inland trade (p. 77); or whether, after the Venezuela episode, "militant Americanism receded into the depths and, stronger and more self-confident for having been revealed in its full proportions, awaited a more propitious season for asserting itself" (p. 312); or whether "every nerve of the nation tingled with joy" (p. 321) at the Spanish War. The American case for the Alaska strip appears to be understated (p. 327). And it is interesting to note that the list of "singularly sane and gifted" (p. 329) personalities who controlled foreign affairs in the first decade of this century includes Hay, Choate, and Root, and Salisbury, Lansdowne, Grey, Pauncefote, and Bryce, but makes no mention of Theodore Roosevelt.

FREDERIC L. PAXSON.

The Whig Party in the South. By ARTHUR CHARLES COLE, Ph.D., Instructor in History in the University of Illinois. (Washington: American Historical Association; London: Humphrey Milford; Oxford University Press. 1913. Pp. xii, 392.)

THE history of the great political parties in the United States is not quite the history of the country, but it is an important part of that history. The story, therefore, of the Whig party in the South cannot fail to command a welcome. And the history of the Whig party is particularly desirable in clear, succinct form since the Southern Whigs formed a sort of social group, unlike their Northern allies and still more unlike the Southern Democrats.

Before describing in detail this important book, it may be well to note that the author has used manuscript materials of very great interest and importance, hitherto little known to scholars. The Mangum correspondence in the possession of Dr. Stephen B. Weeks, the Floyd, Fillmore, and Duff Green papers are the more important of these, though the various citations from the Library of Congress treasures